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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

25X1A

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 17 October 1952

SUBJECT Extraordinary Meeting of the PCE
 in Guayaquil, 25 August 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. On 25 August 1952 an extraordinary meeting of representatives from the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE) cells in the Guayaquil area was held in the local headquarters of the Communist Party. As a result of faulty co-ordination in publicizing the meeting, only some fourteen representatives were in attendance. Marco Tulio Oramas presided over the meeting because of the sudden departure for Quito of Enrique Gil Gilbert. The meeting was devoted to reports by various PCE leaders.
2. Oramas informed those in attendance that it was necessary to reorganize all PCE cells in the area completely and that this would involve the following:
 - a. Regular cell meetings at definite places, with full attendance of all members.
 - b. Collection of dues from all members, including dues in arrears.
 - c. A new emphasis on propaganda conducted by individual cells against the military pact through public meetings, collection of signatures for peace, and distribution of handbills.
 - d. Visits by delegates from the PCE Provincial Committee to cell meetings to insure that cells are being properly revitalized. The first of these visits would be made by Oramas and Guillermo Canarte Canarte.
3. Segundo Ramos Navarrete, secretary-general of the Federacion Provincial de Trabajadores del Guayas (FPTG), discussed the labor problems of the workers of the Witting Shipyard, blaming these on [redacted] their American supervisor. Ramos explained that the strikers had gone on strike on 25 August and that they needed the united support of the PCE in order to win their fight for better wages and working conditions; the PCE must therefore work hand in hand with the FPTG.¹

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4. Jorge Maldonado Renella, legal representative of the striking Witting workers, repeated the points outlined by Ramos and further stated that the new Velasco administration would attempt to wipe out all labor unions and federations, including the Concentracion de Trabajadores del Ecuador (CTE), with which the FPTG is affiliated. He thereupon urged the PCE to work energetically to "mobilize and fortify on a national scale" all of their own unions, indicating that the FPTG was a Communist federation.
5. Alfredo Vera Vera, Communist member of the Guayaquil city council, delivered the longest address and made the following statements:

a. The PCE has failed to support the Vera faction of the Guayaquil city council adequately.² It has failed miserably to focus the attention of the people of Guayaquil properly on the evil machinations of Carlos Guevara Moreno. The PCE is losing an excellent chance to win over the support of the great mass of the Guayaquil populace by not fighting Guevara through the council.

b. The PCE has failed to organize shock troops, whereas the Socialist Party has some 300 well-trained and armed men who are ready at any moment to man the barricades.³ The PCE should have such a force but has done nothing and must therefore rely on the Socialists for armed action, if such should become necessary. Numerous police and Army officials have visited Vera's office recently, offering to help form a corps of shock troops and lead them to the municipal palace to kill Guevara and all his supporters. Many municipal workers are also ready to join in such a movement, but the PCE has done nothing.

c. Emilio Estrada Icaza, independent member of the city council who formerly voted against Guevara, thereby supporting the Vera faction, is selling out to Guevara, presumably for protection. Estrada gave some S/90,000 to Guevara for municipal works which will improve the value of property owned by Estrada.

25X1A1. Comment. At the meeting discussed in this report both Segundo Ramos and Jorge Maldonado indicated to the PCE delegates present that the FPTG was their federation and spoke of it as almost an adjunct of the PCE.

25X1A 2. Comment. Since the recent Communist Congress held in Ambato in July, Alfredo Vera Vera has continued his carping criticism of the PCE leadership without let-up.

25X1A 3. Comment. No other reports have been received indicating that the Socialists in this area have an armed and trained group.

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